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ATTENTION OPERATIONS CENTER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, CASC, CH  
SUBJECT: HARRY WU CASE: CHINESE MEDIA REPORTS CONFESSION

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE CHINESE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY REPORTS  
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HARRY WU HAS CONFESSED TO FABRICATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE  
CHARGES IN HIS BBC DOCUMENTARY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) CHINA'S XINHUA NEWS SERVICE REPORTED LATE ON THE  
AFTERNOON OF JULY 27 THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST HARRY WU

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CONFESSSED TO FALSELY ACCUSING CHINA OF EXPORTING PRISON PRODUCTS AND SELLING ORGANS OF DEATH ROW PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO XINHUA, WU ADMITS HE AND BBC CORRESPONDENT SUSAN ROBERTS DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS POLICEMEN AND RESORTED TO OTHER CLANDESTINE METHODS ON VARIOUS

OCCASIONS SINCE 1991 TO ENTER RESTRICTED AREAS AND SHOOT FOOTAGE WITH HIDDEN CAMERAS.

3. (U) XINHUA CLAIMS WU ADMITS THE FOLLOWING FACTUAL MISREPRESENTATIONS:

-- SALE OF PRISON PRODUCTS OUTSIDE PRISON: THE BBC FILM SHOWS PRISONER-MADE LEATHER JACKETS AND CHILDRENS' CLOTHES ON SALE JUST OUTSIDE A PRISON IN XINJIANG. WU REPORTEDLY ADMITS THE PRODUCTS WERE NOT PRODUCED BY PRISONERS, AND THE FOOTAGE WAS FROM DOWNTOWN URMQI, NOT NEAR THE PRISON.

-- PRISONERS' GRAVES: THE FILM SHOWS GRAVES ALLEGEDLY CONTAINING PRISONERS EXECUTED FOR THE SALE OF THEIR ORGANS. WU REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGES ONLY COMMON PEOPLE WERE BURIED IN THE GRAVE.

-- UNCLE NEEDING KIDNEY: ACCORDING TO XINHUA, WU ADMITS THE UNCLE FOR WHOM HE AND ROBERTS TRIED TO BUY A KIDNEY

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IN A CHENGDU, SICHUAN HOSPITAL WAS FICTITIOUS.

-- CONDEMNED PRISONERS' ORGANS: THE BBC FILM SAYS ORGANS OF CONDEMNED PRISONERS WERE FOR SALE. WU REPORTEDLY NOW ADMITS THAT MEDICAL STAFF TOLD HIM ORGANS WERE ONLY AVAILABLE FROM BRAIN DEAD PATIENTS.

-- KIDNEY OPERATION: WU CONFESSES THE KIDNEY OPERATION IN THE FILM WAS ACTUALLY A CARDIAC PROCEDURE. CLAIMS THE DEAL FOR THE KIDNEY OPERATION WAS CONCLUDED WITHIN TWO HOURS FOR A FEE OF USD 30,000 WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY FALSE.

-- FOREIGN PATIENTS: CONTRARY TO CLAIMS FOREIGN PATIENTS CAME TO CHINESE CLINICS SEEKING ORGANS, XINHUA REPORTS WU NEVER SAW ANY FOREIGN PATIENTS.

4. (U) SEPARATELY, WE UNDERSTAND FROM CONGEN HONG KONG THAT A VIDEOTAPED VERSION OF A WU CONFESSION WILL APPEAR ON JULY 27 NEWS BROADCASTS THERE.

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5. (C) COMMENT: IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHINESE LEGAL SYSTEM AND TRADITION, WHICH BOTH PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON CONTRICTION, HARRY WU'S CONFESSION IS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT. THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN THE CASE MAY PRECEDE A DECISION TO EXPEL HIM, ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY AS YET TO BE CERTAIN. HALLFORD

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